Serial No. 10/578,940

Atty. Doc. No. 2004P05249WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 29 – 32 are in the application. All of the claims are finally rejected on new grounds, as anticipated by Dempski (U.S. 7,050,078). Applicants respectfully submit that the basis for the rejection appears deficient based on lack of disclosure in the Dempski reference of features expressly recited in the claims. Independent claim 29 is exemplary. In this regard, claim 29 requires numerous features not found in the prior art. For example, the claim requires

providing a mixed virtual/real environment for presentation to the user of a dynamic simulation in a context which includes the real component in the real environment by augmenting the real environment with a simulated dynamization, thereby providing the user with a dynamic simulation in the context of the real environment, wherein ongoing processes running in the real environment are recorded and synchronized with the dynamic simulation, and wherein execution of the dynamic simulation is controllable by the user.

It is submitted that, for example, citation of col. 7, lines 21-43 does not present a case of anticipation because it lacks disclosure of a simulated dynamization, it lacks disclosure of a synchronization between ongoing processes and the dynamic synchronization, and it lacks disclosure of user controllable execution of the dynamic simulation.

Other deficiencies are also present in the rejection. For example, the method of claim 29 also requires

the real component having a process setting determinable by input of a process value via a process link;

and

providing a process interface in the automation system for receiving input from the process link and connected for setting the real component in accord with the process value ...

but the citation to col. 4, lines 51-60 does not appear to concern a process link, or "a process setting determinable by input of a process value" and the citation to col. 7, lines 44-57 does not appear to relate at all to the subject matter of "a process interface in the automation system for receiving input from the process link ..."

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For all of these reasons it appears that the rejection of claim 29 is in error. Further, it appears that the rejection of numerous dependent claims is also in error. For example, the rejection of claim 31 cites col. 2, lines 3-23 and col. 3, lines 30-67 for disclosure of storing sensor and actuator values but none of the cited text appears to describe this subject matter. Also, with regard to claim 32, the citation of col. 8, lines 18-36 may describe play-back of recorded data, but nothing in this passage relates to play back in slow motion or in a backwards direction in time.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, allowance of the application is requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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